

sonian Institution, Washington, D.C.; Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, Harvard University; Peabody Essex Museum, Salem, American Museum of Natural History, New York; Indiana University Art Museum, Bloomington; Springfield Science Museum, Springfield, Massachusetts; and New Brunswick Museum, Saint John, Canada, as well as a number of private collections. In conjunction with the exhibition, the Metropolitan Museum will offer a variety of educational programs and resources, including a series of lectures and films designed to inform the visitor about the origins and significance of Easter Island's diverse artistic traditions.

The exhibition will be accompanied by an illustrated catalogue, which will be distributed by Yale University Press. The exhibition is organized by Eric Kjellgren, the Evelyn A. J. Hall and John A. Friede Assistant Curator for Oceanic art in the Metropolitan's Department of the Arts of Africa, Oceania, and the Americas. <http://www.metmuseum.org>

EMBLEMS OF PASSAGE:

ART OF AFRICA, OCEANIA AND THE AMERICAS

Museum of Craft & Folk Art (MOCFA), San Francisco
January 16 – April 7, 2002
Opening reception January 16, 5 - 7

The Museum of Craft & Folk Art presents the exhibition *Emblems of Passage: Art of Africa, Oceania and the Americas* in conjunction with the Friends of Ethnic Art. *Emblems of Passage* brings to light the extraordinary quality of art in private Bay Area collections and the power art has to connect cultures. The exhibition and catalogue gather over 100 works of art or "emblems of passage" representing a variety of living and historic cultures from Africa, Oceania and the Americas. Curated by Gregory Ghent, the exhibition features treasures, many never before been exhibited publicly, from the collections of the members of the Friends of Ethnic Art.

The focus of *Emblems of Passage* is on the role of art in life's passages from birth to death, across cultures and time. Art is created and exchanged to mark important turning points such as birth, initiation, marriage, parenting, and death. This art carries the spirit that moves a person from one stage in life to another. As such, this is a unique "life cycle" exhibition, going beyond an exploration of the culture of origin to include the life of the object in the hands of the collector. The exhibition and catalogue give the collectors the opportunity to tell the story of their relationship to each object, to describe what drew them to a particular work of art and why they added it to their collection.

Emblems of Passage: Art of Africa, Oceania, and the Americas brings together the Friends of Ethnic Art and the Museum of Craft & Folk Art. Founded in 1974, the Friends of Ethnic Art is a nonprofit member-supported organization that includes 500 individuals who are private collectors, scholars, artists, museum professionals, and art dealers. The Museum of Craft & Folk Art is the only museum in Northern California focusing entirely on contemporary craft, folk art, and tribal arts. MOCFA's exhibitions range from the historical to the contemporary, and to the strange and wonderful.

Emblems of Passage: Art of Africa, Oceania and the Americas opens on January 16 and runs through April 7, 2002. The Museum of Craft & Folk Art is located in Building A at Fort Mason Center, at Buchanan St and Marina Boulevard. Exhibition hours are Tuesday through Friday 11 am – 5 pm, Saturday 10 am – 5 pm, and Sunday 11 am – 5 pm. For more information, call (415) 775-0991 x109 or visit www.mocfa.org.

WEB SITES

THE ADVENTURES AND DANGERS OF RAPANUI WEB SURFING

by Alan Drake

RNJ readers not connected to the Internet should count themselves lucky. The World Wide Web is a hodgepodge universe, a free-for-all, a sordid manifestation of the human condition. Garbage and more garbage. It smothers us in dissatisfaction, distractions, enticements, promises, inaccuracies, disappearances, and dead ends...not to mention its constant assault on our visual sensibilities. It is everything we want, but probably don't need. What does this have to do with Rapa Nui? On any given day, troops of curiosity seekers and stalwart Rapanuiphiles prepare to explore Easter Island by surfing the 'Net. They soon learn to anticipate the dreaded Rapababble! Will we meet yet another self-trained tour guide eager to take us out the hot Rapa Nui sun and offer us nothing but blue sky? A simple search for 'Easter Island' brings up tens of thousands of pages making reference to our beloved island.

When on the net we're either looking for a specific site or just surf in' to see what's new. Often it seems impossible to locate a site, even when we're certain it's out there. Or, we can't find anything worthwhile. Occasionally you'll hit it lucky and find a newly-discovered page, a full blown site that will delight, inform, inspire. Just What Is Out There? We never know and can't say for sure. There are five basic reasons for this.

1. The web is in eternal flux. Between today and tomorrow half of everything has been updated or has disappeared. It is a world-wide archaeological site continuously being plundered.

2. Never trust anything you find on the web. Web sites fall into two basic categories: commercial sites pushing their own agendas (money interests) and individuals with their own interests (more opinion and enthusiasm than fact/experience). There is also a smaller group of altruists, but they must be approached with some skepticism as well.

3. No two web searchers see the same thing on their monitors. There are so many browsers, browser settings, computer configurations, system settings... and things can change from day to day. This makes web creation a nightmare. What looks stunning on one computer may appear as gobbledygook on another.

4. You won't find everything in one place, and nothing is comprehensive. It's a perpetual read through *People Magazine*.

5. We'll never agree on a definitive list of the top Easter Island sites. There are always individual favorites and personal dislikes. This issue offers 3 helpful hints.

Hint 1: For foolproof connections to some of the best

Easter Island sites on the net, you'll always find yourself a click away if you bookmark the Easter Island Foundation's Island Heritage links page: <http://www.islandheritage.org/links>. This page is available through the islandheritage.org home page, under Links. The links page will be updated regularly, as new information comes in. Sites are arranged graphically by subject matter. To save visitors the drudgery of clicking on every site, most have received our exclusive *tangatamanu* rating of from one to five, in half *tangatamanu* intervals. Topic headings include:

Photographs and Art; Studies, Papers, Excerpts; Radio, Television, Video, DVD, and Movies; Easter Island Facts and Information (and Misc. Links); Easter Island in the News (and magazines); Easter Island Restoration and Renovations; *Rongorongo* on the Net; Personal Travelogues and Experiences; Easter Island Fantasies; Information about the EIF Web Links Page.

Sites were selected for their relevance or just for entertainment; some might be even be unintentionally humorous. We would like to hear of any new or important sites not listed. We try to avoid the spurious or the scandalous. Your feedback is appreciated.

Hint 2: Learn to use search engines or web crawlers effectively. Don't depend on a single search engine for all searches, particularly if it's been supplied to you by your Internet provider. Different engines use different methods for obtaining and retrieving results. Some update regularly; some list thousands of defunct web pages. If you receive a "page not found" warning, keep in mind search sites like google.com. Google provides a unique cache feature: even if a site has gone the way of all *matatoa*, you can click on a "cache" link that displays a stored snapshot of how the page once appeared. Each of us has our own favorite search engine, but don't rely on it exclusively. In our next issue's column we'll give you a few hints on how to maximize your searches.

Hint 3: Get hooked up to the Web through a cable modem. If your local TC cable company offers an Internet connection, don't hesitate to sign up. It doesn't cost much more than a 28K or 56K telephone connection. Always choose cable over DSL for cable is cheaper, more reliable, and faster.

Future editions of this column will contain more helpful hints on using the internet as well as lists of new items to be found on our site.

Alan Drake is the web administrator for EIF's web site. You can contact him directly via any "email us now" link on the site or at webadmin@islandheritage.org. Please include a list of your own favorite Rapa Nui sites and those you recommend that visitors should avoid.



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<http://www.rapanuitraveltda.co.cl>

RAPA NUI TRAVEL is your tour operator and travel agent based on Easter Island. If you need information about when to come, where to go and places to stay, contact us.



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Is 2002 your year to visit Easter Island? Located 2,300 miles west of Santiago, Chile, Easter Island is a tiny dot of land - sixty square miles of rocky grasslands, extinct volcanic cones, and steep ocean cliffs, surrounded by an endless ocean as blue as the sky. Far Horizons is proud to announce two tours to the island in 2002. In January, travel with Dr. Steven Roger Fischer, an internationally recognized linguist, historian and author of six books dealing with Eastern Polynesia. The trip is scheduled at this time of the year to include the wonderful Tapati Festival, a celebration of the Rapa Nui culture. Each day will dawn with new and exciting contests of strength and skill, while evenings will bring the mesmerizing melodies of Polynesian music as dancers perform beneath the stars. It is a time of revelry and feasts, and of honoring the past.

GEORGIA'S BACK! In October 2002, journey with Dr. Georgia Lee northern Chile to see incredible rock art, and to Easter Island. Dr. Lee is an archaeologist whose experience includes extensive research on the island. She is a specialist in rock art, particularly that of Polynesia. She is the editor of *Rapa Nui Journal*, and the author of *An Uncommon Guide to Easter Island*, *The Rock Art of Easter Island: Symbols of Power, Prayers to the Gods*, and *Te Moana Nui. Exploring the Lost Isles of the South Pacific*.